

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	1. Vilian Siroky and Vaclav David 2. Personalities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	DATE DISTR.	5 August 1953
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Vilian Siroky was disappointed over the appointment of Vaclav David as Minister of Foreign Affairs. Siroky, who several times publicly compared himself with Molotov, felt that the function of foreign minister was so important that it should be combined with the function of a deputy prime minister. Actually, David is incompetent, and it is Deputy Minister Gertruda Sekaninova who is supreme in the Ministry. Next in importance is Ladislav Simovic, who has been Secretary General of the Ministry since his arrival in Prague from his post as Ambassador to Bulgaria.¹ Simovic has been close to Siroky from the beginning of his career, and in him Siroky will find close support against David.
 2. As a contribution to the Slansky trial, security clerks from the Ministry collected all available material from files which could serve in the construction of evidence against the accused. Deputy Minister Eng. Vlastimil Borek is said to have collaborated eagerly in this matter. All documents dating from 1945 on in the courier department files were requisitioned for this purpose. The secretaries of both Artur London and Vavro Hajdu were thoroughly interrogated. The latter's secretary, Miss Mickova, has been released from prison, has married, and is now employed as a window-dresser. Josef Farber, former chief of the cadre department of the Ministry and later chief of the European section, is the only man of those arrested in connection with the trial who has been released.
 3. In January 1953 another purge occurred in the Ministry. Those dismissed, however, were advised that the date of dismissal was 1 July in order to permit them to find suitable employment. Those released under these cir-

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cumstances include Gustav Solar, former charge d'affaires in Stockholm and agent for Bedrich Geninzer, and Ilya Rath, former official in charge of United Nations affairs under Mrs. Sekaninova. On the other hand, it is interesting to note that certain individuals such as Frantisek Gottlieb, Dr. Prochazka, (fnu), Dr. Zdenek Augenthaler, and Dr. Ciovarek (fnu) are still indispensable experts in the legal section and in the section for United Nations affairs.

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[REDACTED] Comment. The Czechoslovak Economic Bulletin of December 1952 lists Dr. Simovic as chief of the Asiatic section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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